Lydgate's Testament.

Textkritische Ausgabe.

I. Teil.

Inaugural-Dissertation

zur

Erlangung der Doktorwürde

verfasst und der

Hohen Philosophischen Fakultät (I. Sektion)

der

Kgl. Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

vorgelegt von

Hans Beutner.

München 1914.

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Lydgates Testament.

Gegen Ende seines Lebens, circ. 1445, verfaßte der mittelenglische Dichter Lydgate, der produktivste Zeitgenosse Chaucers sein „Testament".

Das Gedicht zerfällt rein äußerlich in fünf Hauptteile, eine Einleitung, das eigentliche Testament, ein Gebet, die Fortsetzung des Testamentes und ein religiöses Schlußgedicht. Es besteht aus 897 Versen (118 Strophen), von denen 240 (30 Str.) auf I, 182 (26 Str.) auf II, 184 (23 Str.) auf III, 147 (21 Str.) auf IV und 144 (18 Str.) auf V entfallen. Geschickte Übergänge verknüpfen die fünf Teile unter sich zu einem Ganzen.

I (1—240).

Die Einleitung ist ein langes Loblied auf den süßen Namen Jesu. Der Refrain ist in mehr oder weniger abgeänderter Form eine Wiedergabe der Bibelstelle: 'ut in nomine Jesu omne genu flectatur cœlestium, terrestrium, et infernorum'. (Philipperbriefe II 10.)

Wehe dem, der das logische Verknüpfungsband zwischen den einzelnen Strophen immer suchen müßte. Die Gedanken folgen sich willkürlich und wiederholen sich recht häufig. Was jedoch immer wieder aus diesen Zeilen hervorleuchtet, ist der biedere, demutsvolle Charakter des Mönches, der sich anklagt, die christliche Vollkommenheit im Leben nicht erreicht zu haben.

II (241—422).

Der altersgebrechliche Greis bereut, daß er im schönen Frühling des Lebens nicht an das Sterben gedacht und ein gottseliges Leben geführt habe. Wie der Frühling verwelke, so sei auch sein Leben verronnen. Nun bleibe ihm nichts mehr übrig, als seinem Heiland seine vielen Jugendsünden zu beichten.

Die Beschreibung des Frühlings, dessen Elemente ("hoot and moist") Feuer und Wasser den 'complexiouns' der Jugend entsprächen, gehört hier zum Schönsten.

III (423—606).

Im Gebete, das Lydgate hier seiner poetischen Beichte voranschickt, fleht er durch 184 Verse hindurch im Refrain um Reue, Beicht, Abendmahl und letzte Ölung in seiner Todesstunde.

IV (607—753).

IV enthält den Hauptteil des Gedichtes, die eigentliche Beichte. Von 606—669 spricht er von seinem Leben vor seinem Eintritt in das Kloster.

Ich bin träge im Lernen gewesen, so jammert er. Das Spiel und das lustige Leben zogen mich mehr an, so daß meine Verwandten ihr Geld umsonst ausgaben. Zur Schule kam ich gewöhnlich zu spät und bloß um da zu sein. Mit meinen Kameraden stritt ich mich herum und verspottete sie. Ich achtete wenig auf meine Vorgesetzten. Um Obst zu stehlen, sprang ich über Hecken und Mauern. Trauben in anderer Leute Weingärten abreißen, tat ich viel lieber als mein Morgengebet verrichten. Besonders gefiel es mir, andere Leute zu ärgern, ihnen böse Streiche zu spielen und sie wie ein ungezogener Affe zu verhöhnen. Ich ging nicht gern zur Messe. Ich aß mit ungewaschenen Händen. Während meines Gebetes dachte ich an Fastnachtsbelustigung und warf nach dem Hahn. Wenn mich meine Verwandten tadelten, tat ich, als ob ich es nicht hörte. An das Beichten wollte ich nicht recht heran. Im Schulschwänzen war ich der Hauptleithammel. Ich verstand es gar wohl, mich krank zu stellen, wenn ich kerngesund war. Meine Augen und Füße hatten keine Ruhe.

670—753. Um diese Zeit, da trat ich ins Kloster und begann mein Noviziatsjahr. Die Regeln des heiligen Benediktus wurden mir vorgelesen. Ich hörte sie gerne an, aber ich befolgte sie nicht. Ich trug ein schwarzes Ordenskleid, aber unter der Kutte steckte kein Mönch. Wie Lots Weib blickte ich oft zurück. Vor dem Volke wollte auch ich für fromm und demütig gelten. Ich war unmäßig im Essen und Trinken, schwatzte und stritt viel. Ich wachte, wann es nicht sein sollte. Eitlen Geschichten lieh ich das Ohr. Von Tugend zu sprechen, schien mir unpassend. Bei Belustigung und Kurzweil war ich der erste, der letzte aber immer beim Aufstehen, um in den Chor zu kommen. In der Betrachtung fand ich

nur wenig Erbauung. Heiligengeschichten machten mir keine Freude, viel besser schmeckte mir der Wein. Verweise nahm ich keinesfalls im christlichen Geiste hin. Erst in älteren Tagen bin ich in mich gegangen.

V (754—897).

Der fünfte Teil behandelt das mittelalterliche Lieblingsthema von der Passion Christi. Mit einem freudigen Hinweis auf die Erlösung endet das Gedicht.

Kritik des Testamentes.

Die eingehendste Behandlung hat das Werk in Ten Brinks Literaturgeschichte erfahren.

„Lydgate," sagt er, „war nicht für den geistlichen Stand geschaffen, noch weniger für das Ordensleben. Die Bekenntnisse in seinem Testament geben uns ein Bild von seiner Kindheit und ersten Jugend. Er war nichts weniger als ein Musterknabe, im Gegenteil der Typus eines rechten Jungen und noch etwas mehr als dies. Man erhält den Eindruck von soviel ungebändigter Kraft, daß man die Disziplin beklagen muß, wodurch sie unterdrückt, statt in die rechte Bahn gelenkt werden sollte. Es kam die Stunde, wo er sich bekehrte; doch wird er auch seitdem oft genug Mühe gehabt haben, gegen seine weltlichen Neigungen anzukämpfen, sich an Subordination zu gewöhnen, seine Neugierde zu zügeln, seine Ohren eitlen Fabeln zu verschließen und seine Aufmerksamkeit Heiligengeschichten zuzuwenden. Lydgate war eine ehrliche, gewissenhafte Natur trotz seiner Jugendstreiche. Nach seiner Bekehrung nahm er es durchaus ernst mit seinem Berufe und so wurde er mit den Jahren immer frömmer und geistlicher. Bei zunehmendem Alter wandte er sich immer ausschließlicher geistlichen Stoffen zu."

Ten Brink scheint mir die Sache zu tragisch aufzufassen. Wenn Lydgate wirklich gar so schlimm gewesen wäre, dürfte wohl die strenge Disziplin nicht gar so sehr zu beklagen sein.

Gattinger (p. 34) übertreibt noch mehr. Er schreibt: „Und man sieht tatsächlich nur zu wohl am Testamente selbst, wie das Kloster und dann wohl auch seine Lektüre von Boccaccio den Dichter so jung und feurig, der was hätte werden können, völlig gebrochen hat."

Gar so furchtbar werden wohl das böse Kloster und Boccaccio doch nicht auf ihn gewirkt haben. Wenigstens jammert der „völlig

gebrochene“ Lydgate, daß ihn das Kloster gar nicht habe bändigen können. Es hat auch gar nicht den Anschein, als ob das einer kräftigen Reform bedürftige Klosterleben seiner Zeit ihn hätte brechen können. Frömmer in seinen älteren Tagen läßt freilich der Zeitgeist des Mittelalters auch einen Chaucer werden, ohne seinem dichterischen Können in der Vollkraft seiner Jahre Abbruch zu tun. Mir scheint Schicks Ansicht, daß der Dichter sich immer schlechter macht, als er wirklich ist, auch in moralischer Hinsicht zu gelten. Von einem „völligen“ und gar „tatsächlichen“ Gebrochensein kann man nicht reden. Man lese doch die letzte Strophe im Testament, von der ein Engländer ganz begeistert war. Freudig tritt der Mönch dem Tod entgegen voll Hoffnung, Siegeszuversicht und Jubel.

Wenn Lydgate trotz Ten Brink und Gattinger wenig Schwung und Phantasie besitzt und instinktiv sich immer an Übersetzungen und Paraphrasen heranmachte, statt produktiv zu schaffen, so kann natürlich Boccaccio und auch das Kloster nichts dafür. Poeta nascitur non fit.

Manchmal könnte man versucht sein, das Gedicht für Selbstsatyre zu halten. Die Anklagen kommen uns oft kleinlich und komisch vor; aber wir müssen bedenken, wie sehr die Vorschriften des heiligen Benediktus ins einzelne gingen. Wer die Hände nicht vor dem Essen wusch, wer nicht rechtzeitig sich zu Bett begab, verfehlte sich gegen die Ordensregel. Dem Mönche ist es ernst mit der Reue über seine kleinen Übertretungen. Der Selbstanklage geht das Gebet um ein seliges Ende vorher. Unmittelbar daran schließt sich das ernste, religiöse Schlußgedicht von der Leidensgeschichte des Herrn. Sein Testament, bestimmt er, soll ihm auf die Brust gelegt werden, wenn er gestorben sei. Das komische Element hat also hier keinen Platz.

Die biographische Ausbeute.

Das Testament ist eine leider zu allgemeine Autobiographie. Immerhin erhalten wir ein sehr klares Charakterbild. Die Epitheta humble und meek, die immer wiederkehren sind wohl aus Lydgates tiefster Seele geflossen. Wir fühlen ferner deutlich durch, daß er in seiner Jugend nicht gerade gerne Ordensmann war. Er spricht von seiner Liebe zum Wein und macht uns mit noch manchem Zug vertraut, der nicht unnütz für das Studium seiner Werke ist. Der

Dichter ist übertrieben strenge mit sich selbst. Die Mönche in Webers Dreizehnlinden haben ein robusteres Gewissen.

Seine Verwandten scheinen vermögend gewesen zu sein; denn sie hatten Schulgeld zu bezahlen, was den Armen zumeist erlassen wurde. Er muß ferner Stadtschüler gewesen sein, da ein Internatsleben mit seinen Gewohnheiten sich nicht vereinigen ließe. Merkwürdig ist, daß Lydgate nie von seinen Eltern, sondern nur von seinen Freunden, 'frendys' spricht. Seine Eltern scheint er frühzeitig verloren zu haben, und der Verwaiste scheint dabei etwas verwahrlost und verwildert zu sein.

An den beiden Stellen, wo er von seinen Verwandten redet, haben diese etwas an ihm auszusetzen.

654: Snybbyd of my frendys such tecches for t'amende.

627: Made my frendys ther good to spende in ydel.

Das klingt beinahe so, als ob diese ihm vorgehalten hätten, sie wollten nicht ewig für ihn zahlen.

Daß Lydgate ganz freiwillig, aus eigenem Antrieb ins Kloster ging, dagegen spricht der ganze vierte Teil des Testamentes. Die „Freunde“ werden wohl ihr Redliches beigetragen haben, den Jungen dazu zu überreden, um ihn für immer los zu sein. Schon mit 15 Jahren hat er diesen Schritt getan. Er spricht noch von seinem Noviziatsjahr und verliert sich dann ins allgemeine.

I.

Testamentum Johannis Lidgate Nobilis Poete.

1.

O how holsom and glad is the memorye
Of Crist Jesu, surmountyng al swetnesse!
Name of conquest, of tryumphe, and victorye,
Thassaut of Sathan to [venquysshe] and oppresse.
To which[e] name, — (Seynt Poule berith witnesse) —
Of hevene, and erthe, and infernal poosté
Alle creaturys, — of riht and dewe humblesse
And of hool herte — bowe shal ther kne!

2.

No song so swete unto the audience
As is Jesus, [nor] so full of plesaunce,
Ageyn al enmyes sheeld, pavys, and diffence,
To hevy hertys cheef comfort in substaunce,
Of goostly gladnesse moost sovereyn suffisaunce,
Cheef directorye to hevene-ward the cité,
Gladdest resoort of spiritual remembraunce,
To whom al creaturys bowe shal ther kne.

3.

To alle folkys that [stonde] in repentaunce,
With hert contryt maad ther confessioun,
Of wyl and thouht accomplysshed ther penaunce,
And to ther power doon satisfactioun,
That cleyme be mene of Cristis passioun,
Markyd with Tau T. for moor suerté,
To them Jesu shall graunte full pardoun,
To axe hym mercy, whan they knele on ther kne.

---

1 O how] we T; holsom and glad] glad and holsom Ha; 4 Th'] The T; venquysshen Hy; 5 vvichë HT; 7 and] and of T; humblenesse J; 8 of] fJ; hool] lowe Ha, olde T; 9 swete] sote HLdLL1St; 10 nor] now Hy, fJPh; 13 sovereyn] coumfort in St; 14 directorye] vicarie T; 15 Gladdest] Gladnesse H; 17 stonden HyJHa, stondis Ph; folkys] folke T, peple Ha; 19 of wyl] with shrift L1; and] of T; 20 to] fT; poweer] fJPh; 21 cleyme] certayne Ha; be mene] by merite L1; 22 T] fHa, †T; for] and for T; 24 To] that Ha; knele on] bow Ha; ther] her J; axe aske LdLH;

4.

In this name moost sovereyn of vertu,
Stant hool our hoope and al our assuraunce;
Ffor wher that evir namyd is Jesu,
Geyn gostly trouble men [fynde] allegeaunce;
Who [trusteth] Jesu may feele no grevaunce,
Which from al thraldam brouht us to liberte.
Out of al servage he made an acquytaunce
To alle that knele to Jesu on ther kne.

5.

In amerous hertys brennyng of kyndenesse,
This name of Jesu moost profoundly doth myne.
Martir Ignacius can bern heerof witnesse,
Amid whoos herte, by grace which is divyne,
With aureat lettrys as gold that did[e] shyne,
His herte was grave — men may his legende se —
To teche al cristene ther heedys to enclyne
To blissed Jesu, and bowe adoun ther kne.

6.

This is the name that chaceth away the clips
Of fforeyn dirkenesse, as clerkys determyne,
By John remembryd in th'Apocalips,
How lich a lamb his heed he did enclyne,
Whos blood doun ran, riht as any lyne,
To wasshe the orduris of our iniquité,
Medlyd with watir cleer and cristallyne,
Which from his herte doun railed by his kne.

---

25 name] name Jesu HHaLdLL₁St; vertu] fLL₁; 26 Stant] Owre T, Stondeth J; hool] all HLdSt, holde L₁T; al] fT; assuraunce] fL₁; 27 evir] fT; namyd is] is named Ha; 28 fynde Ld] fynden HyJ; Geyn] Agayne J, Gyffyn T; 29 trusteth Ld] trustith in HyHaStT; 31 al] fHaHLdL; he] fT; an] fHLdLStT oon J; 32 knele] knelen H, knene L, knelithe T; 34 name of] name HL; bern] beren H, bere JPhT; heerof] therof HStPh, of this T; 36 Amid] Amind T; divyne] devided T; 37 that] thay T; 38 grave] graven HT; 39 ther] here H; 41 the clips] the schippis T; 43 John] Jesu Ph; thapocalips] the apocalipse LdT; 44 his] is T; 45 riht] as right Ph; any] a LT; 47 Medlyd] Melde T; and] as HJT, fPh; 48 his] the T; railed] ran Ph;

7.

By blood Jesus made our redempcioun.
With watir of baptym fro felthe wessh us cleene.
And from his herte too licours there ran doun.
On Calvary the trouthe was wel seene,
Whan Longius, with a spere keene,
Percyd his herte upon the roode-[tre].
O man unkynde, thynk what this doth meene,
And on to Jesu bowe adoun thy kne!

8.

Ther is no speche nor language can remembre,
Lettir, sillable, nor word that may expresse,
Thouh in too tungys were turnyd every membre
Of man to telle th'excellent noblesse
Of blissed Jesu, which, of his gret meeknesse,
List suffre deth to make his servaunt fre.
Now, merciful Jesu, for thyn hih goodnesse,
Have mercy on alle that bowe to the ther kne!

9.

The prince was slayn; the servaunt went at large.
And to delyver his soget fro prisoun,
The lord took on hym for to bere the charge,
To quyte mankynd by obligacioun.
Seelyd with fyve woundys, he payed our raunsoun
Man to restoore to paradys, his cite.
Is man nat bounde — I axe this questioun —
To blissed Jesu for to bowe his kne?

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49 By blood] Be holde HT; 50 fro] from HL; baptym] kaptyne T; 51 from] fro HLdLSt; 52 the] fT; was] whas T; 53 Whan] whan that HLSt, where T; a] a sharpp T; keene] can Ph; 54 tre Ld] fHy; 55 unkynde] kynde T; 56 Jesu] hym Ph; bowe adoun] a bowe dnow T; 57 nor] nor no T; can] chane T; 58 may] cane T; 59 Thouh] Thought; in too] in to LdLHSt; were turnyd] turned werre T; 60 th'] the HT; the theexcellent: J; 62 List] lyst to T; 63 hih] gret T; gudnesse T; 64 ther] her H thy T; 66 fro] from H; 67 the$_2$] fT; 68 obligacioun] oblacioun LdLHSt; 71 Is] This T; man nat] not man HLdLSt, name not Ph; axe] aske LdLH; this] the Ph; 72 for] fT;

10.

Six hundryd tyme with sixty toold by noumbre,
In Poulys pistlys 'Jesu' men may reede
Multitude of feendys to encombre.
To paye our raunsoun, his blood he did[e] sheede;
Nat a smal part, but al he did out bleede.
For Adamys appyl, plukkyd from the tre,
Jesu deyed; for shame, man, tak heede!
Gyf thank to Jesu and bowe to hym thy kne!

11.

Alle thes thynges considred that I tolde,
Man, wher evir thu holdist thy passage,
Toward Jesu alwey that thu beholde,
With eye ffyx looke on his visage,
Crownyd with thorn for our gret outrage,
Have this in mynde and lerne o thing of me:
That day noon enmy shal doon us noon damage,
Whan we to Jesu devoutly bowe our kne.

12.

Withynne my closet and in my litil couche,
O blissed Jesu, and by my beddys syde,
That noon enmy nor no feend shal me touche,
The name of Jesu with me shal evir abyde!
My loode-sterre and my sovereyn guyde,
In this world [here] bothe on lond and se,
O Jesu, Jesu, for al tho folk provyde
Which to thy name devoutly bowe ther kne!

---

73 hundryd] hundirth T; by] to J; 74 pistlys] pistill T; men] man T; 76 raunsoum HSt; 77 part] party J; al] fPh; out] fJPh; 78 Adamys] Adam T; plukkyd] pulcked T; 80 to hym] a downe T; 81 thes] this LdT; 82 holdist] holde T; 83 beholde] holde T; 84 eye ffyx] the fix H; his] is T; 85 thorn] thourne T; 86 o] on T; 87 noon$_2$] no H; 88 we] fT; 89 in] fHJT; 90 blissed] blesfull T; 91 nor no feend] never me for T; no] fPh; 92 abyde] bydde T; 94 herë H] heer Hy etc.; 95 tho] thy TPh; 96 ther] here LdH;

13.

With Maria callyd Mawdeleyne,
Erly ech morwe whil that my liff may dure,
Ffro slouthe and slombre mysilf I shal restreyne
To seke Jesu at his sepulture;
Whom for to fynde yif that I may recure
To have pocessioun of hym at liberté,
Ther were in erthe no richere creature,
To whoom al creaturys bowe shal ther kne.

14.

In merciful Jesu to putte a verray preef
Of his mercy, that no man disespeyre,
Upon the cros gaf graunt unto the theef
To paradys with hym for to repayre;
Took out of helle soulys many a peyre,
Mawgré Cerberus and al his cruelte.
O gracious Jesu, benygne and debonayre,
Have mercy on alle that bowe to the ther kne!

15.

The name of Jesu, swettest of namys alle,
Geyn goostly venyms holsomest tryacle,
For whosoevir unto this name calle,
Of cankryd surfetys fynt reles by myracle,
To eyen blynde lihte, lanterne, and spectacle,
And bryhtest myrour of al felicité,
Support, and sheeld, diffence, and cheef obstacle
To alle that kneele to Jesu on ther kne.

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97 Magdaleyne T; 98 that] fT; 99 mysilf I shal] I shal myself HL; 101 that] fLT; recure] recovre T; 103 erthe] hertes T; 104 al creaturys] ech wyght HLdLSt; ther] hys LdLHSt; 106 disespeyre] dispeyre JStT; 107 unto] to Tt; 108 for] fLdLHStT; repayre] repaye L; 109 Took] Take T; a] fT; 110 al] fPh; his] fT; 111 gracious Jesu] Jesu gracious Ph; 112 the] fT; ther] her H; 114 holsomest] holsom J; 115 unto] to H; 117 eyen] ony H, yeffe T;

16.

This roial name moost sovereyn of renoun,
This name Jesus victorious in batail,
Of hevenly tryumphis the laureat guerdoun,
The spiritual palme of goostly apparail,
Celestial prowesse which may moost avail
To sitte with angelis in ther eternal se,
Th' emperial conquest nat gett with plate or mayl,
But with meeke kneelyng to Jesu on our kne.

17.

Patriarkes and prophetis oon by oon,
Thre Jerarchyes and al the ordris nyne,
Twelve apostlys, and martirs everychoon,
Hooly confessours, and every pur virgyne,
To blissed Jesu moost meekly shal enclyne.
Ffoulys, beestys, and fisshes of the se,
Kynde hath tauht hem by natural disciplyne
Meekly to Jesu to bowe a doun ther kne.

18.

Ther is no love parfitly i-groundid,
But it of Jesu took his original;
Ffor upon Jesu al parfitnesse is foundid,
Our tour, our castel geyn poweers infernal,
Our poortcolys, our bolewerk, and our wal,
Our sheeld, our pavys geyn al adversite,
Our herytage, our guerdoun eternal,
To whoom alle creaturys bowe shal ther kne.

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126 se] blis J; 127 Th'] The HL; 128 our] hir H; 130 the] th' HSt; Thre] The JT; 132 Hooly] the holi Ha; 134 beestys] and bestes LT; 135 hath] fT; hem] them StT; 136 ther] youre T; 137 i-grounded] grounded Ha T; 138 But] If Ha; of] on H; 140 tour] toure and J; 141 wal] walles T; 142 geyn] agayne T; 143 herytage] hertage J; 144 whoom] fT; bowe shal ther] I bowe shal the T;

19.

Condigne laude nor comendacioun,
Yove to this name, ther can no tonge telle,
Of goostly foode richest reffeccioun,
Hedspryng of grace, of lyff conduyt and welle;
Jesu namyd, ther dar no dragoun dwelle,
Blissidest bawme of our felicite
Alle cancryd soorys and poysouns to repelle
Ffrom them to Jesu that knele on ther kne.

20.

This name 'Jesus', by interpretacioun,
Is, for to seyne, our blyssid Saviour,
Our strong Sampson that stranglyd the lioun,
Our lord, our maker, and our creatour,
And by his passioun fro deth our redemptour,
Our Orpheus that fro captyvyté
Ffeit Erudice to his celestial tour,
To whoom alle creaturys bowe shal ther kne.

21.

At wellys five licour I shal drawe
To wasshe the rust of my synnys blyve,
Wheer al mysteryes of the oold and newe lawe
Took orygynal, morally to descryve;
I meene the wellys of Cristis woundys five,
Wherby we cleyme of merciful pité,
Thoruh helpe of Jesu, at gracious poort t'aryve,
Ther to have mercy kneelyng on our kne.

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146 tonge] man Ha; 149 dar] dere H; 150 Blissidest] most blessid Ha; bawme] name Ha; 152 them to Jesu that] them that to Jesu H; knele] knelen T, bowe Ha; on] doun Ha, upon HLdLStT; 154 to] fHaL; seyne] synne Ha; 155 Sampson] Sampsom L; stranglyd] strangnelid J; 156 and our] and J; 158 fro] from HLd; 159 ffeit] ffette HL; 161 At] Atte H; licour] licoures Ha; 162 my] youre J; 163 Wheer al] where of the Ha; 166 Werby] Wherfor Ha; of] oure T; 167 at] that T; t'] to HaT; 168 on] upon Ha;

22.

J in Jesu set for Jocunditas,
Gynnyng and ground of al goostly gladnesse;
E next in ordre is Eternitas,
Tokne and signe of eternal brihtenesse;
S set for sanitas, socour ageyn syknesse;
U for Ubertas, of spiritual plenté;
S for Suavitas, from whom comyth al swetnesse
To them that kneele to Jesu on ther kne.

23.

J in Jesu is joye that nevir shal eende;
E signifieth evirlastyng suffisaunce;
S our Savacioun, whan we shal hens weende;
V his five [vvoundys] that made us acquytaunce
Ffro Sathanys myht thoruh his meeke suffraunce;
S for the Sacrament which ech day we may se,
In fourme of breed, to save us fro myschaunce,
Whan we devoutly receyve it on our kne.

24.

J fro Jacob; H from [Habraham],
The lyne descendyng by generacioun;
C stant for Crist, that from hevene cam,
Born of a mayde for our redempcioun;
The sharpe titel, tokne of his passioun,
Whan he was nayled upon the roode-tre.
O blissed Jesu, do remissioun
To alle that axe mercy on ther kne!

---

169 J in Jesu set] Condygne laude T; 170 ground] graunted T; 171 E] Ever T; is] his T; 172 of] of all J; 173 Sanitas] sanatas St; ageyn] geyn J; syknesse] all sykenesse T; 175 Suavitas] sanatas St; 176 kneele] knelen T; ther] her Ha; 177 shal] shal have Ha; 180 vvoundys H] woundys Hy etc.; acquytaunce] a quytaunce Ld; 181 Ffro] ffor T; Sathanys] Satanas T; meeke] f Ha; 182 which ech day we may se] that we may dayly se Ha; may] f T; 184 on] upon Ha; 185 fro] for J T; from] for Ha J T; Habraham H] Abraham Hy Ha St T; 186 lyne] lyfe T; 189 The sharpe] Therpe T; tokne] tocoun T; 190 roodë] rood H; 191 do] thu Ha; 192 axe] aske H Ld L St J; on] upon Ha;

25.

Do mercy, Jesu, or that we he[nnë]s pace,
Out of this pereillous dreedful pilgrymage,
Beset with brygauntys, leyd wayt in every place
With mortal sawt to lettyn oure passage!
Among othre I that am falle in age,
Gretly ffeblisshed of old infirmyté,
Crye unto Jesu for my synful [outrage],
Riht of hool herte, thus kneelyng on my kne.

26.

Lat nat be lost that thu hast bouht so deere,
With gold nor silver, but with thy precious blood!
Our fflessh is freel, but short abydyng heere;
The oold serpent malicious and wood;
The world unstable, now ebbe, now is flood,
Ech thyng concludyng on mutabilité,
Geyn whos daungeers I hold this consayl good
To prey for mercy to Jesu on our kne.

27.

And undir suppoort, Jesu, of thy favour,
Or I passe hens, this hooly myn entent
To make Jesu to be cheef surveyour
Of my laste wyl set in my Testament,
Which of mysilfe am insufficient
To rekne or counte, but mercy and pite
Be preferryd, or thu do jugement,
To alle that calle to Jesu on ther kne.

---

193 that] fHLdLSt; 194 pereillous] fT; 195 wayt] on waite T; 196 lettyn] lette HSt, let T; 197 that] fT; falle] full T; 199 outrage JLT] outrages HyHaHLdSt; 200 thus] fT; on] upon T; 202 nor] nore with T, or L; thy] this T; 203 freel] freill St; 205 ebbe] ebbe and J; is] fT; 206 on] on a T; 210 I] fT; passe hens] hens pas J; 211 to be] fT; 212 in] fT; 214 and] or J; 216 that calle] fT; on ther] there on T;

28.

Age is crope in, callith me to my grave
To make reknyng how I my tyme have spent.
Bareyn of vertu, allas! who shal me save
Ffro feendys daunger, t'acounte for my talent,
But Jesu be my staff and my potent?
Ovir streyt audit is lik t'encoumbre me,
Or doom be yove, but mercy be present
To alle that kneele to Jesu on ther kne.

29.

Now in the name of my lord Jesus,
Of riht hool herte in al my best entent,
My lyff remembryng froward and vicious,
Ay contrary to the comaundement
Of Crist Jesu, now with avisement
The lord besechyng to have mercy and pité,
My youthe, myn age how that I have myspent,
With this woord seyd kneelyng on my kne:

30.

O Jesu, mercy, with suppoort of thy grace,
Ffor thy meek passioun remembre on my compleynt
Duryng my lyf with many gret trespace
By many wrong path wher I have mys-went,
I now purpoose, by thy grace influent,
To write a tretys of surfetys doon to the,
And callyn it my last[e] Testament,
With Jesu mercy, kneelyng on my kne.

---

217 crope in] crokid in J; callith] and callith T; 218 make reknyng] ma kenynge T; my tyme] fT; spent] myspent T; 220 feendys] frendes T; t'] to T; for] fT; 222 t'] to JT; me] fT; 223 be yove but] be yeffe be yeve lete T; 224 kneele] knelyn T; 226 in] is Ha; 227 lyff] childe T; 231 that] fHaT; myspent] spent St, myswent T; 232 woord] world Ha; on] upon HaT; 233 with] fT; 234 remembre] remembraunce T; on] of Ha; 236 By many wrong path] Be my wronge passith T; many] fJ, many a Ha; myswent] myspent J; 237 thy] f Ha, the T; 238 write] wright T; surfetys] surte Ha; 239 callyn] calle H, call JTHaSt; lastë L] last Hy etc.; 240 on] upon Ha;

II.

Testamentum in Nomine Jesu.

31.

The yeerys passyd of my tendir youthe,
Off my fressh age seryd the grennesse,
Lust appallyd, th'experience is cowthe,
The unweeldy joyntes starkyd with rudnesse,
The cloudy sihte mystyd with dirknesse,
Withoute redres, recure, or amendys,
To me of deth han brouhte in the kalendys.

32.

Of myspent tyme a fool may weel compleyne,
Thyng impossible ageyn for to recure,
Dayes lost in ydil no man may restreyne
Them to refourme by noon aventure.
Ech mortal man is callid to the lure
Of deth, allas! uncerteyn the passage,
Whos cheef maryneer is callyd crokyd age.

33.

Oon of his bedellys, namyd febilnesse,
Cam with his potent instede of a maas,
Somowned me, and aftir cam syknesse,
Malencolyk, erthely [and] pale of faas.
With ther waraunt thes tweyne gan manaas
How deth of me his dew[ë] dette souhte,
And to a bed of langour they me brouhte.

---

241 passyd] past C, tendir] grene T; youthe] age Ha; 242 fresshe] best Ha; seryd] serith Ha; 243 appallyd] appallith T; th'] fHa, the JCT; is cowthe] doth swage Ha (Mac Cracken), unleserlich; 244 unweeldy joyntes] vnrewly youthe C; 246 redres, recure] recure, redresse Ha; han] have JCRPnHa hathe T; 248 fool] soule Ha; 249 for] fHa; 250 Idell dayes ylost who can call agayne RPn; restreyne] recoure T; 251 noon] oon J, any RPn; 252 Ech] every Ha; to] fT, vnto C; 253 the] is the CHa; 254 crokyd] croke H; 255 his] fC; 256 potent] patent HaC; 257 Somowned] Sompnyd CHa; aftir] afterwarde JRPn; 258 and RPnTJ] ad Hy etc.; 259 thes] those C; ther] the C; tweyne] two Ha; gan] can RPn; 260 How] that RPn, of J; of] on T; dewë HHaTRPn] dew Hy etc.; 261 they] ther J;

34.

Wher unto me anoon ther did appeere,
Whyl that I lay compleynyng in a traunce,
Clad in a mantyl, a woman sad of cheere,
Blak was hir habite, sobre [of] contenaunce,
Straunge of hir poort, froward of daliaunce,
Castyng hir look to me-ward in certeyn
Lych as of me she [had[de] had] disdeyn.

35.

This sayd[e] woman was callyd Remembraunce
Of myspent tyme in youthys lustynesse,
Which to recorde did me gret grevaunce.
Than cam hir sustir namyd Pensiffnesse,
Ffor olde surfetys, and gan unto me dresse
A wooful bille which brouhte unto my mynde
My grete outrages of long tyme left behynde.

36.

Lyggyng allone, I gan to ymagyne
How with foure tymes departyd is the yeer:
Ffirst how in Ver, the soyl[e] t'enlumyne,
Buddys gynne opne ageyn the sonne cleer.
The bawme up-reysed, moost sovereyn and enteer,
Out of the roote doth naturally ascende
With newe lyveree the bareyn soyle t'amende.

---

262 unto] oone to C; ther] fH, they Ha; 263 Whyl] where T; a] fHa; 264 Clad] and Ha; 265 hir$_1$] his L; habite] abyte HRPnT; sobre of LdLHCT] sobre was hir HyJRPn, sad of Ha; 266 of hir] whas here T; 268 as of] as to C, of HHaLdL; had had LLdJRPn] hadde H, had HyHaCT; disdeyn] but disdeyne HLdL, but gret disdayn Ha; 269 was callyd] called was JRPn; 270 Of] of my T; 271 gret] fHa; 273 Ffor] ffro T; and] fRPn; gan] fT, cane J; unto] to CT; 274 my] me my T; 275 outrages] outrage JCTHa; 276 I gan] I began Ha; 277 is] this T; 278 Ver, the soyl t' enlumyne] my soule to illumyne T; soyl] seyle C, soyle H; t' enlumyne] to elumyne Ha; 279 gynne] gynnyng RPn; ageyn] geyne J; 281 doth] don Ha; doth naturally] most naturally doth T; 282 newe] now C; soyle] soule C; t'] to CTHa;

37.

The honysoucle, the froisshe prymerollys
Ther levys splaye at Phebus uprysyng;
The amerous fowlys, with motetys and carollys,
Salwe that sesoun every morwenyng,
Whan Aurora, hir licour distillyng,
Sent on herbys the peerly dropys sheene
Of silvir dewys t'enlumyne with the greene.

38.

This tyme Ver is namyd of grennesse,
Tyme of joye, of gladnesse and dispoort,
Tyme of growyng, cheef moodir of fresshenesse,
Tyme of rejoisshyng, ordeyned for coumfoort,
Tyme whan tyme makith his resoort
In gerysshe Marche toward the ariete,
Our Emysperye to gladen with his hete.

39.

Whiche sesoun prykethe fresshe corages,
Reioissheth beestys walkyng in ther pasture,
Causith briddys to syngen in ther cages,
Whan blood renewyth in every creature,
Som observaunce doyng to nature,
Which is of Ver callyd cheef pryncesse
And undir God ther worldly emperesse.

---

284 Ther] The HC; splaye] sprede Ha; 285 The] Th' H; motetys] notes CRPn, merthis T; 286 that] this LH; morwenyng] mornyng HHaJCPnT, monynge R; 289 silvir] sylvery Pn; dewys] dropis T; dew C; t'] to CT; enlumyne] ellumyne C; 290 Ver] of Ver HHaL; is] fT; namyd] ynomyde C; 291 of$_2$] fHa; and] and of C ad L; 292 cheef] fHa; 295 the] fT; 296 emispere C; glade C; hete] herte J; 297 sesoun] sesouns Ha; prykethe] prikkes H; corages] corage CT; 298 Reioissheth] reioysyng Ha; walkyng] walkyn Ha; ther] the J; pasture] pastures R; 299 syngen] synge L, syng H; ther] her JRPnT; cages] cage T, corages Ha; 302 is of Ver] of verry trouthe is T; 303 ther] than RPn; worldly] chef Ha; empresse HLLdRPn;

40.

And for this lusty sesoun agreable,
Of gladnesse hath so gret avauntage,
By convenyent resouns ful notable,
Therto ful weel resemblith [childys] age,
Quyk, greene, fressh and delyvere of corage;
Ffor riht as Ver ay moreth in grennesse,
So doth childhood in amerous lustynesse.

41.

This quykyng sesoun nutrityff and good,
Of his nature hath tweyne qualitees,
Of hoot and moyst, which longe also to blood,
In ther ascensioun upward by degrees,
Of kyndly riht, the which[ë] propirtees,
By natural heete and temperat moisture
Reknyd, in childhood fourtene yeer doth endure.

42.

Thus in sixe thynges by ordre men may seen
Notable accoord and iust convenience:
Blood, eyr, an[d] Ver, southe and merydien,
And age of childhood by natural assistence.
Which whil they stonde in ther fressh premynence,
Heete and moysture directyth ther passages,
With greene fervence t'afforce yong corages.

---

304 And] As C; for] fJ; 306 resouns] resoun HCT; 307 resemblith] resemblyng Ha, resembled T; childys Ld etc.] childisshe HyJRPn; 308 Quyk] ful Ha; delyvered C; 309 rihte as Ver ay moreth] as verry age nvrrisseth T; ay] ever Ha; moreth] contynueth C; 311 quykyng] quyk Ld, quykenyng C; nutrityff] nutrified T; 312 Of] To T; tweyne] two HaRPn; 313 moyst] most J; longe] longeth C; 314 ascensioun] ascensiouns CPn, aseecions J; 315 riht] thynges T; whiche] fHa; whiche LC] which Hy etc.; 316 By] of C; 317 Reknyd] Rekne C; 318 ordre] orders T, seen] see C; 319 iust] Justyce T; and] by C; 320 and] an Hy; 321 natural] nature; 322 Which whil they] With whiche thai T; in ther fressh] fT; 323 Heete] Hoote C; directyth ther] directyd the T; ther] her Ha; passages] passage C; 324 t' afforce] to aforce C, to force LdLHT; corages] corage C;

43.

Ffirst Zephirus, with his blastys soote,
Enspireth Ver with newe buddys greene.
The bawme ascendith out of every roote,
Causyng with flourys ageyn the sonne sheene
May among monethys sitte lyk a queene;
Hir sustir April wattryng hir gardynes
With holsom shoures shad in the tendyr vynes.

44.

This tyme of Ver, Fflora doth hir cure
With [soleyn] motles passyng fresshe and gaye,
Purpil colours wrouht by dame Nature,
Mounteyns, valys, and meedewys for t'araye;
Hir warderobe open, list nat to delaye
Large mesour to shewe out, and to sheede,
Tresours of ffayrye wich she doth poosseede.

45.

This sesoun Ver, moost plesaunt to childhood,
With hire [chapelettes] greene, whit, and reede —
In which tyme the newe yonge blood,
Hoot and moyst, ascendith up, in deede,
Reioisshyng hertys, as it abrood doth spreede,
Weenyng this sesoun, among there merthis alle,
Shuld[e] nevir discresen nor appalle.

---

325 soote] so hote J; 326 buddys] turnys C; 328 Causyng with] Changynge the T; flourys] flowre H; 329 among monethys sitte] of a month monethes sittith as T; sitte] sit LdRPn, siteth HaC, stant L; 330 wattryng] waytyng Ha; 331 shad] sad H; the] fTHa; 332 Ver] verray T; 333 soleyn] pleyn Hy; 334 colours] colour TC; dame] on J; 335 and] fRPn; for t'] to JCT; 336 warderope C; 337 to] fT; 338 Tresours] Tresoure R; ffayrye] fayre Ld; poosseede] procede T; 339 Ver] verray T; plesaunt] plesauntly T; to] of C; 340 chapelettes L] chapeteles J; chapirlettys Hy; chapelet Ld; 342 ascendith] ascendynge T; 343 it] hit R; abrood] abought T; 344 among] amonges R; there] her Ha; 345 Shuld[e]] Sholde HL; discresen] dysencrece C; nor] nor yet RPn;

46.

The variaunt sesoun of this stormy age
Abraydeth evere on newfangilnesse,
Now frownyng cheer[e], now fressh of visage,
Now glad, now liht, now trouble and hevynesse,
Wylde as an hert, now moornyng for sadnesse,
Stormysshe as Marche with chaungis ful sodeyne
Afftir cleer shynyng to tourne and make it reyne.

47.

Off this sesoun lust halt reyne and brydil,
Seelde or nevir abydyng in o poynt,
Now passyng besy, now dissolut, now ydil,
Now a good felawe, now al out of ioynt,
Now smothe, now stark, now lyk an hard purpoynt,
Now as the peys of a dyal goth,
Now gerysshe glad, and anoon aftir wroth.

48.

Lych as in Ver men gretly them delite
To beholde the bewte sovereyne
Of thes blosmys, som blew, rede, and white,
To whos fresshnesse no colour may atteyne;
But than, unwarly, comyth a wynd sodeyne,
Ffor no favour list nat for to spare
Fresshnesse of braunchys for to make hem bare.

---

346 The] Thys C; 347 on] in C; upon Ha; 348 frownyng] froward Ha; 349 and] now Ha; 350 an] on J; for] f Ha; 351 Stormysshe] Stormy C; chaungis] chaung R; ful] f Ha; 352 to] f Ha; it] hyt R; 353 halt] holte H, holdeth J C R Pn; reyne] keye J, rene L; 354 o] one R Pn; 356 now$_2$] and L; 357 now$_2$] and L; lyk an hard] hard like a Ha; purpoynt] spere poynt C; 358 the] a R; a] the Ha; 359 and] f C; 360 Lych as] Also R Pn; them] hem Ld, then Ha, they C; as] f J; 361 sovereyne] of souerayne J R Pn; 362 thes] hys C, chefe R; 363 To] In H; 364 unwarly] wonderly Ha; 365 ffor] that for Ha; 366 Fresshnesse] The fresshnes C; hem] them J R Pn all C;

49.

This sesoun Ver stant evir in nouncerteyne:
For som oon hour thouh Phebus fresshly shyne,
In Marchys wedrys, it sodeynly wil reyne,
Which of the day al dirknesse doth declyne;
And semblably, a lyknesse to diffyne,
Men seen childre, of berthe yong and greene,
Buryed withyne the yeerys of ffifteene.

50.

Whan Ver is fresshest of blosmys and of flourys,
An unwar storm his fresshnesse may apayre.
Who may withstonde the sterne sharp[e] shourys
Of dethys power, wher hym list repayre?
Thouh the feturis fressh, angelik, and fayre,
Shewe out, in childhood, as any cristal cleer,
Deth can diffface hem withyne fyfteene yeer.

51.

Veris sesoun doth but a while abyde;
Skarsly thre monethys he holdith heer soiour;
The age of childhood rekne on the tothir syde,
In his encrees upgrowyng as a flour;
But whan that deth manacith with his shour,
In such caas he can no moor diffence
Than crokyd age in his moost impotence.

---

367 evir in nouncerteyne] ever in no certeyn LLdH; ever in none certayne RPn; never in certeyne CT; 369 sodeynly wil] wyll sodeynly HHa; 372 childre] children LdLHCRPn; 373 of] fHL; 374 blosmys] blomes Ld; 375 apayre] apere C; 376 sterne] stormy C; 377 repayre] to pere C; 378 Thouh] thogh Ha; the] fHLdLHa; 380 diffface hem] theym defase C; hem] them HaRPn hym J; 381 but] bode J; 382 soiourne C; 383 The age] Thage Pn; the tothir] the other J, that other C; 384 as] as doth Ha; 385 that] fHaL; 386 such] suche a C; 387 crokyd] a rokys Ha;

52.

Ver and ech sesoun mot by processe fade.
In Ver of age may be no sekirnesse.
Ech hath his hourys hevy and eek glade,
Ther sesouns meynt with joye and hevynesse,
Now fayr, now foul, now helthe, now siknesse,
To shewe a maner lyknesse and ymage:
Our dwellyng heere is but a pilgrymage.

53.

And for my part, I can remembre weel,
Whan I [was] gladdest, in that fressh sesoun,
Lyk brotyl glas, nat stable, nor lyk steel,
Fere, out of [harre], wylde of condicioun,
Savagyne, voyd of al resoun,
Lyk a phane ay tornyng to and froo,
Or lyk an horloge whan the peys is goo.

54.

Yove to unthrift and dissolucioun,
Stood unbrydlyd of al good governaunce.
Which remembryd, by meek confessioun
Now with my potent to [fynde] allegeaunce
Of oold[e] surfetys, contryt with repentaunce,
To the, Jesu, I make my passage
Rehersyng trespacys doon in my tendir age.

---

388 ech] every HaC; mot] mut HL, must P, most Ha; fade] fHa; 390 eek glade] gladenesse Ha; 391 Ther] The CJ; sesouns] sesoun Ha; meynt] meteth Ha; 393 maner] man Ha; 394 Our] that our Ha; 395 part] party C; 396 was] fHy; 398 harre LH] arre LdC, hwrre Ha, arrest Hy, a rest JRPn; Fere] Ferre Pn; 399 Savagyne] Savagyng P, Savagynge and R, Safe ayene C; fful geryssh and HHaL. ffull geryssh Ld; 401 whan] when that C; peys is] peysses RPn; 402 Yove] Gyven RPn, Yevyn C, to] on to Ld, vnto J; 403 Stood] And stood C; good] fHL; governaunce] condicioun C; 404 remembryd] remembryng LdLHaH; 405 potent] potence C; fynde L] fynden Hy; 407 make] aske Ha; 408 Rehersyng] Reheryng L; trespacys] trespace RPn; doon in] of C; my tendir] yong Ha;

55.

But to directe by grace my mateere,
Meekly kneelyng, Jesu, in thy presence,
I me purpoose to gynnè with prayeere,
Undir thy merciful, fructuous influence;
So thu, Jesu, of thy benyvolence,
To my requestys, by merciful attendaunce,
Graunt, or I deye, shrift, hosyl, repentaunce!

56.

My wrecchyd lyfe t'amenden and correcte,
I me purpoose with suppoort of thy grace
Thy deth, thy passioun, thy cros T, shal me directe,
Which suffredist deeth, Jesu, for our trespace;
I wrecche, unworthy to looke upon thy face,
Thy feet embracyng, fro which I shal nat twynne,
Mercy requeeryng, thus I wyl begynne.

411 gynne] begynne CHa; 413 thu] that thow C; thy] my Ha; 415 hosyl] howsill and C; 416 lyfe] fHa; t'] to JCHa; 418 cros T] † cros LH; T cros Ld; me] o me J; 419 suffredist] suffrest Ha; 421 embracyng] enbracyng LLd; 422 requeeryng] enquiryng JRPn; wyl] shal Ha; I wyl] wyll I (RPn);

III.

Oratio Previa Humiliter Confitentis.

57.

O myhty lord, of poweer myhtiest,
Withoute whom al force is febilnesse,
Bountevous Jesu, of good[e] goodliest,
Mercy thy bedel, or thu thy doomys dresse!
Delayest rigour to punysshe my wikkydnesse,
Lengest abydyng, lothest to do vengaunce!
O blyssed Jesu, of thyn hih goodnesse,
Graunt, or I deye, shrift, hosyl, repentaunce!

58.

Thouh thu be myhty, thu art eek merciable
To alle folkys that meekly hem repente.
I, a wrecche, contagious, and coupable,
To alle outrages reedy for t'assente,
But of hool herte and wyl in myn entente.
Of oold and newe, al vicious governaunce,
Of youthe, of age, and of mystyme spente,
Graunt, or I deye, shrift, hosyl, repentaunce!

---

423 O] fJ; myhtiest] most myghtiest Ha; 425 Bountevous] Bewteus J; of] fC; good[e]] gode H; 426 doomys] dome JR; 427 Delayest] Delayeth RPn; Delay C; punysshe] punsshe LdL; 428 do] fHa; 430 or] me or C; repentaunce] and repentaunce CHa; 431 eek] also C, ful Ha; merciable] mesurable Ha; 432 folkys] peple Ha; hem] them JRPn theym C; 433 coupable] compaynable C; 434 t'] to JRPnCLd; 435 But] Bode J; 437 of$_2$] and RPn; of$_3$] fC; 438 repentaunce] and repentaunce CHa;

59.

Off my confessioun receyve the sacrifise
By my tongue up offryd unto the,
That I may seyn in al my best[e] guyse,
Meekly with David: „Have mercy upon me!"
Sauf al my soorys, that they nat cankryd be
With noon oold rust of disesperaunce,
Which of hool herte crye upon my kne:
Graunt, or I deye, shrift, hosyl, repentaunce!

60.

O Jesu, Jesu, heere myn orisoun!
Brydle myn outrage undir thy disciplyne!
Ffettre sensualité, enlumyne my resoun
To folwe the tracys of spiritual doctryne!
Lat thy grace leede me riht as lyne
With humble herte to live to thy plesaunce!
And, blissed Jesu, or I this liff shall fyne,
Graunt, of thy mercy, shrift, hosyl, repentaunce!

61.

Suffre me to have savour nor swetnesse
But in thy name that callid is Jesu;
Al foreyn thyng to me mak bittirnesse
Sauf oonly Jesu, moost sovereyn of vertu,
To my professioun accordyng and moost dew
Evere to be preentyd in my remembraunce
At myn eende to graunte me this issu:
Tofor my deth, shrift, hosil, repentaunce!

---

440 up] fHa; unto] vpon to Ha; on to Ld; 441 guyse] wise Ha; best[e]] beste L; 443 Sauf] Saue HLLd, Salve RPn; not] ne H; 444 disesperaunce] desperaunce Ha; 445 of] with Ha; 446 repentaunce] and repentaunce Ha; [447—454] fL; 449 enlumyne] elumyne Ha; 450 folwe] folowe H; 451 riht] as ryght H; as] as a CRPnHa; 452 live] love H; to₂] vnto C, fJ; thy] fHa; 453 Jesu] lord Ha; 454 of thy mercy] or I deye LdH; repentaunce] and repentaunce C; 455 savour] no favour C; 457 thyng] thinges CRPn; me] fC; to me mak] make to me Ha; 458 Sauf] Save H; 459 To] SoC; 460 preentyd] paynted Pn; 461 At] And at CHa; 462 Tofor] To forne J; hosil] hosel and LHaC;

62.

No lord but Jesu, moost merciable and benygne,
Which of mercy took our humanyte,
And, of love to shewe a sovereyn signe,
Suffredist passioun upon the roode-tre
Oonly to fraunchise our mortalité,
Which stood in daunger of Sathanys encoumbraunce:
Or I passe hens, Jesu, graunt unto me,
To for my deth, shrift, hosil, repentaunce!

63.

I am excited and meevyd of nature
This name of Jesu sovereynly to preyse:
Name comendid moost hihly in Scripture!
Which name hath poweer dede men to reise
To liff eternal, whos vertu doth so peyse
Ageyn my synnes weyed in ballaunce,
That grace and mercy shal so countirpeyse.
Graunt, or I deye, shrift, hosyl, repentaunce!

64.

Lat me nat reste nor have no quyete,
Occupye my soule with spiritual travayl,
To synge and seyn: O mercy, Jesu swete!
My proteccioun geyn [fendes] in batayl,
Sette asyde al othir apparayl,
And in Jesu put hool myn affiaunce,
Tresour of tresoures that me [may] moost avayl,
Graunt, or I deye, shrift, hosyl, repentaunce!

---

463 No] Oo J; benygne] digne Ha; 466 Suffredist] Suffred CHaRPn; 469 Jesu graunt] graunt Jesu C; 470 hosil] hosel and HLC; 471 meevyd] moved RPn; 472 This] The Ld of] fH; 475 vertu] fR; 476 synnes] synne C; in] in a Ha; 477 and] of Ha; 478 hosyl] howsyll and C; 480 Occupye] to occupie Ha; But occupy C; 481 O] fR; 482 My] Be my C; geyn] geyns Ha; agayne CR; fendes L etc.] frendys Hy; 483 Sette] Settynge RPn; 484 hool] hooly C, all hole Ha, all RPn; 485 that] whyche C; me] me may LdLHC; me moost] most may Ha, may me most RPn; hosyl] howsyll and C;

65.

Myn feith, myn hoope to the, Jesu, doth calle;
Which glorious name shal nevir out of mynde.
I shal the seeke, what hap that evyr befalle.
By grace and mercy, in trust, I shal the fynde.
And but I did, trewly I were unkynde,
Which for my sake wer percyd with a launce
Unto the herte; Jesu, leff nat behynde,
Graunt, or I deye, shrift, hosyl, repentaunce!

66.

Ther is no God but thu, Jesu, allone,
Sovereynest and eek most merciful,
Ffayrest of faire, erly late, and soone,
Stable and moost strong, pitous and rihteful,
Refourmyng synners that been in vertu dul,
Dawntyng the proude meeknesse to enhaunce.
Thy toune of mercy is evir i-liche ful.
Graunt, or I deye, shrift, hosyl, repentaunce!

67.

Suffre of mercy I may to the speke,
O blissed Jesu, and goodly do adverte,
Who shal yeve me leiser out to breke,
That thu, Jesu, mayst entren in myn herte
Ther t'abyde moor neere than my sherte
With aureat lettris grave ther in substaunce!
Provide for me and lat it nat asterte!
Graunt, or I deye, shrift, hosyl, repentaunce!

---

488 out] fHa; of] of my LHa; 489 that] fHa; befalle] falle LdLHa; 490 By] Thorough C; in trust] I trust CHa; 492 wer] was J, with C; 494 hosyl] howsyll and C; 495 thu] fHa; 496 Sovereynest and eek most] Sovereyn and also Ha; 498 strong, pitous] ryghtfull strong and C: rihteful] mercyfull HHa; 499 been] byn C; 500 proude] prowde and C; 501 toune] tyme C; i-liche] a liche HLLd, lyke RPn, lyche C, ylych J; ful] new C: 502 hosyl] howsyll and C: 503 I] that IHa; 505 me] fR; leiser] leyther HL; out] ought C; 506 mayst] must C; entren] entrete H; in] into JCHaR: 507 t'] to HHa, for to C; 508 With] whit H: grave] y graue C; 510 hosyl] howsyll and C;

Dic anime mee: salus tua ego sum. (LdLHHa) Ps. 34$_3$. 68.

Sey to my soule, Jesu, thu art myn helthe!
Heeryng this voys aftir I shal purswe.
[Skoure] that place from al goostly felthe,
And [vices] alle fro thens do remwe!
Thyn hooly goost close in that litil mwe!
Parte nat lihtly, mak such chevisaunce,
T'encrese in vertu and vices to eschewe,
And, or I deye, shrift, hosyl, repentaunce!

Illustra faciem tuam super servum tuum! (LdLHHa) Ps. 30$_{17}$. 69.

Shew glad thy face, and thy liht doun sheede,
The merciful liht of thyn eyen tweyne
On me thy servaunt which hath so mooche neede
For his synnes to weepen and compleyne!
And blissed Jesu, of mercy nat disdeyne,
Thy gracious shourys lat reyne in habundaunce
Upon myn herte t'adewen every veyne,
And, or I deye, shrift, hosyl, repentaunce!

Salvum me fac in misericordia tua, domine! (LdLHHa) Ps. 30$_{17}$. 70.

Save me, thy servaunt, O lord, in thy mercy!
Ffor lak of which lat me nat be confoundid;
For in the, Jesu, myn hoope stant fynally,
And al my trust in the, Jesu, is groundid.
Ffor my synnes thynk, Jesu, thu were woundid,
Nakid on the roode, by mortal gret penaunce,
By which the poweer of Sathan was confoundid!
Graunt, or I deye, shrift, hosyl, repentaunce!

---

511 Jesu] fHa; 513 Skoure L etc.] Skore Hy; 514 vices L etc.] vice Hy; alle fro thens do] fro that place al to Ha; do] to HLdLR aber Pn = do; 517 T'] To JCRPn; T'encrese] to entre Ha; vertu] vertues Ha; 518 hosyl] howsyll and C; 519 thy] fL; glad thy] thy glad C; 521 mooche] mekill JRPn, meche Ld, gret C; 522 his] my C; 524 shourys] shoure Ha; lat] to let C; habundaunce] abundaunce HL; 525 t' adewen] twochyng Ha, to dewyn JRPn, to refresshe C; 526 hosyl] howsyll and C; 527 O] a J; in] of J for C; 529 hoope] hert Ha; stant] standeth RPn; finally] finall R; 530 And] In R; in the] fHa; 531 Jesu] how C; Jesus Ld; were] fR; 532 Nakid] Nayled Ha; 534 hosyl] howsyll and C;

Tu es refugium meum a tribulacione. (LdLHHa) Ps. 31$_7$.

71.

Thu art, Jesu, my socoure and refuge
Geyn every tempest and [tribulacioun],
That worldly wawes, with there mortal deluge,
Ne drowne me nat in ther dreedful dongoun,
Wher Karibdys hath domynacioun,
And Circes syngeth songis of disturbaunce.
To passe that daunger be my proteccioun!
Graunt, or I deye, shrift, hosyl, repentaunce!

Quis dabit michi venias in cor meum? (LdLHHa.)

72.

Who shal give me lych to myn entent,
That thu, Jesu, maist make thyn herbergage,
By receyvyng of th'ooly sacrament,
Into myn herte, which is to myn oold age
Repast eternal geyn al foreyn damage
Dewly receyved with devout observaunce?
Celestial guerdoun, eende of my pilgrymage,
Is shrift, [and] hosyl, and hertly repentaunce.

73.

I feele myn herte brotel and ruynous
Nat purefied, Jesu therin to reste.
But as a carpenteer comyth to a broken hous,
Or an artificeer reparith a riven cheste,
So thu, Jesu, of craffty men the beste,
Repare my thouht broke with mysgovernaunce!
Visite my soule; myn herte of steel thu breste!
Graunt, or I deye, shryft, hosyl, repentaunce!

---

535 Jesu] fJ; refuge] refugy C; 536 Geyn] Agayne C; tribulacioun] turbulacioun Hy; 537 worldly] worly Ha; wordly Ld; mortall C; deluge] delude C; 538 drowne] drawe C; ther] the CHLdL; 539 Karibdys hath] that crabys haue C; 540 Circes] Syrenes RPn, chyrchys C; 541 be] be thon RPn; 542 hosyl] howsyll and C; 543 lych] like RPnHa; to] fRPn; 544 maist] may J; 545 By] By the C; receyvyng] restreynyng Ha; th' ooly] the holy CHaRPn, holy JH; 546 to] fHa; 547 geyn] agayn C; foreyn] fC; 550 and (1)] fHy; 551 ruynous] irous C; 554 riven] brokyn C; 556 with] with my R; 557 thu] to HLHa, thou Ld; 558 hosyl] howsyll and C;

74.

With wepyng eyen and a contryt cheere,
Accepte me, Jesu, and my compleynt conceyve,
As moost unwurthy t'apeere at thyn awteer,
Which in mysilf no vertu apparceyve!
But yif thy mercy by grace me receyve
By synful lyvyng brouht unto uttraunce,
Preye with good hoope which may me nat deceyve,
Graunt, or I deye, shrift, hosyl, repentaunce!

75.

Cryeng to the that deydest on the rood,
Which with thy blood wer steyned and maad reed,
And on sheerthursday gafe us to oure food
Thy blissed boody, Jesu, in foorme of breed;
To me moost synful graunt or I be deed
To cleyme by mercy for myn enheritaunce,
That with sharp thorn wer crownyd on thyn heed,
Or I passe hens, shryfft, hosyl, repentaunce!

76.

And oon requeste, in especial,
Graunt me, Jesu, whyl I am heer alyve:
Evir have enprentyd in my memorial
The remembraunce of thy woundys five,
Naylles with the spere that did thyn herte ryve,
Thy crown of thorn, which was no smal penaunce,
Language and tonge me dewly for to shryve,
The hooly unctioun, shrift, hosyl, repentaunce!

---

559 eyen] fHa; a] fLdLHHa; 561 t'] to JCHa; at] tofore C; 563 me] and C; 565 Preye] I pray C; me] fHHa; 566 Graunt] To graunt C; hosyl] howsyll and C; 567 to] unto Ha; 568 wer] was JRPnHa; 569 to] fC; 573 thorn] thornes C; 574 Or I passe hens] graunte or y dye Ha; hosyl] hosel and HLdLC; 576 heer] fHa; alyve] on lyve J; 577 have] to have CLH; have enprentyd] to enprint RPn; enprentyd] prented HHaL; 578 woundys] ioyes Ha; 581 and] of Ha; dewly] fHa; 582 hosyl] howsyll and CHa;

77.

Alle the toknys of thy passioun,
I pray the, Jesu, grave hem in my memorye!
Dewly marke myd centre of my resoun,
On Calvary thy tryumphal victorye
Man to restoore to thyn eternal glorye,
By mediacioun of thy meeke suffraunce,
Out of this exil unswre and transitorye,
And whan I passe, shrifft, hosyl, repentaunce!

78.

Of thy mercy requeryng the to myne,
Of my mynde the myd poynt moost profounde,
This woord 'Jesu', my fyve wittys t'enlumyne,
In lengthe and breede lyk a large wounde,
Al ydel thouhtis, t'avoyde hem and confounde,
Thy cros, thy scorgis, thy garnement cast at chaunce,
The rope, the pilere to which thu wer[e] bounde,
Graunt, or I deye, shrift, hosil, repentaunce!

79.

Of this prayeer meekly I make an eende.
Undir thy merciful supportacioun,
O gracious Jesu, graunt whereevir I weende
To have memory upon thy passioun,
Testimonial of my redempcioun!
In my Testament set for allegaunce,
This clause last of my peticioun:
Graunt, or I deye, shrift, hosil, repentaunce!

---

583 thy] thy bitter RPn; 584 grave] graunt C; hem] fHa; them JRPn; 585 marke myd centre] make a sentence C; myd centre of] myddes the centre on of Ha; 587 Man] And C; restoore] receyve C; 588 By] By the C; mediacioun] meditacioun H.; 590 whan] or Ha; I] we RPn; shrifft hosyl] hosel shryfte H; hosyl] howsyll and CLHa; 592 myd poynt] and poynt C; 593 t'] to JC; enlumyne] elumyne; 594 lengthe] lenthe J; 595 t'] to JRPnIIa; avoyde] voyde JIIa, hem] them JRPn fCHa; 596 scorgis] scourge RPn; cast] fHa; at] atte IIa; 597 The(1)] Thy C; the (2)] thy C; which] eche C; 598 hosil] howsyll and C; 599 Of] And of IIa; 606 clause] cause J; hosil] howsyll and C;

IV.

80.

Duryng the tyme of this sesoun Ver,
I meene the sesoun of my yeerys greene
Gynnyng fro childhood stretchith up so fere
To the yeerys accountyd ful ffifteene,
B' experience, as it was weel seene,
The gerisshe sesoun, straunge of condiciouns,
Dispoosyd to many unbridlyd passiouns.

81.

Voyd of resoun, yove to wilfulnesse,
Ffroward to vertu, of thrift gaf litil heede.
Loth to lerne, lovid no besynesse
Sauf pley or merthe, straunge to spelle or reede,
Folwyng al appetites longyng to childheede,
Lihtly tournyng, wylde, and seelde sad,
Weepyng for nouht and anoon afftir glad.

82.

Ffor litil wroth to stryve with my felawe,
As my passiouns did my bridil leede,
Of the yeerde somtyme I stood in awe.
To be [skoured], that was al my dreede.
Loth toward scole, lost my tyme indeede
Lik a yong colt that ran withowte brydil.
Made my freendys ther good to spende in ydil.

---

607 Duryng] Uring J; 608 sesoun] tyme Ha; 609 Gynnyng] Begynnyng C; stretchith] strecchyng CHa; up] fHa; 610 ful] fully JRPn, fully of Ha; 611 B'] By JRPnCHa, BeLd; 611 it] fC; 612 straunge] strong RPn; 613 unbridlyd] vnbyrdly C; 614 yove] yeveyn C, gevyne J; 615 to] of C; thrift] Christ RPn; gaf] toke LdLHHaC; 616 lovid] and louyd C; no] no vertuous RPn; 617 pley or] pley and LdLC; spelle or] spell and C; 619 seelde] selden Ld; 621 ffor litil wroth] fful lyghtly wrethe C; wroth] worth RPn; 622 my(1)] many C; 623 somtyme I stood] stode I somtyme RPn; stood] was C; 624 skoured HLPn] scourged HaCR; scooryd Hy; 626 ran] rynneth C; 627 Made] And so I made C; ther good to spende] to spende her good CHa; ther] gyve RPn;

83.

I hadde in custom to come to scole late
Nat for to lerne but for a contenaunce;
With my felawys reedy to debate,
To jangle and jape was set al my plesaunce.
Wherof rebukyd, this was my chevisaunce
To forge a lesyng and therupon to muse
Whan I trespasyd my silven to excuse.

84.

To my bettre did no reverence;
Of my sovereyns gaf no fors at al;
Wex obstynat by inobedience;
Ran into gardyns; applys ther I stal.
To gadre frutys sparyd hegg nor wal.
To plukke grapys in othir mennys vynes
Was moor reedy than for to seyn matynes.

85.

My lust was al to scorne folk and iape,
Shrewde tornys evir among to use,
To skoffe and mowe lyk a wantoun ape.
Whan I did evil, othre I did accuse.
My wittys five in wast I did al use
Rediere [cherystonys] for to telle
Than gon to chirche or heere the [sacryng] belle.

---

629 contenaunce] contynnaunce C; 630 debate] for to bate Ha; 631 and] or H; was] fHa; 632 Wherof rebukyd] So of rebukyng C; rebukyd] rebuke Ha; 633 forge] force C; lesyng] ly C; 634 mysilven] myself J R Pn C; to] for to C; 635 did] did I Ha; 636 fors] kepe C; 638 applys] and apples C; 639 sparyd] I sparyd neythere C; spared nethir HJ; (nother J), sharp Ha; nor] ne C; 640 To] And to C; plukke] pulle Ha; in] on R Pn; 641 Was] I was C; reedy] redyer C; for] fC; seyn] sey L H; 642 lust] lyf Ha; al] fHa, alway R Pn; folk] fJ; 643 Shrewde] Shrewed H L; 644 mowe] mowech J; wantoun] fHa; 645 Whan] When that C; evil] amys Ha; did] koude L H Ld couthe Ha; 646 wittys five] five wittes Ha Ld; al use] abuse Hy J R Pn; hem vse C; 647 Rediere] More redyer C; for] fHJ; cherystonys C H Ha R Pn] chirstoonys Hy; 648 to] on to the J; or] to C Ha, at J; sacryng] sacry Hy;

86.

Loth to ryse, lother to bedde at eve,
With unwassh handys reedy to dyneer.
My pater noster, my crede or my beleeve,
Cast at the cok; loo! this was my maneer.
Wavid with eche wynd as doth a reed[e]-speere.
Snybbyd of my frendys such [tecchis] for t'amende,
Made deffe ere, lyst nat to them attende.

87.

A child resemblyng which was nat lyk to thryve,
Ffroward to God, reklees in his servise,
Loth to correccioun, slouhe mysylfe to shryve,
Al goode thewys reedy to despise,
Cheef bellewedir of feyned trwaundise:
This is to meene, my silf I cowde feyne
Syk lyk a trwaunt, [and] felte no maneere peyne.

88.

My poort, my pas, my foot alwey unstable,
My look, myn eyen, unswre and vagabounde,
In al my werkys sodeynly chaungable,
To al good thewys contrary I was founde,
Now ovir sad, now moornyng, now jocounde,
Wilful, rekles, mad, stertyng as an hare;
To folwe my lust for no man wold I spare.

---

649 ryse] aryse Ha; lother] loth Ha; but lother C; 650 to] to my J; 651 crede] and Ha; or] nor C; 652 at the] atte H Ha; at C; loo] f Ha; 653 ech] the Ha; reede] reed Hy H Ha; 654 Snybbyd] Snyblid Ld, Snybbyng H, Snobbed R Pn; tecchis Ld] taches J R Pn C; techechys Hy Ha; for t'] to J C Ha; for] f Pn; 655 Made] And made a C; ere] yer Ha; 656 resemblyng] rese Ha; which] that Ha; 657 reklees] recheles C R Pn; 658 slouhe] slow C Ld L Ha, slough H, slouth J, slothe Pn, lothe R; 659 thewys] choyes C; 660 of feyned] unto Ha; feyned] froward L H; 661 This is] this Ha; cowde] cuthe Ha J; 662 and felt Ld L H Ha C] felte Hy J R Pn manere] maner of C; 664 My look] And of looke with C; 667 ovir] f C; 668 rekles] richeles R, recheles C Pn; stertyng] f C; 669 no man] no thyng J R Pn;

89.

Entryng this tyme into religioun
Unto the plouhe I putte forth myn hoond;
A yeer compleet made my professioun,
Considryng litil charg of thilke boond.
Of perfectioun ful good exaumple I foond.
The techyng good, in me was al the lak;
With Lootys wyff I lookyd ofte [a] bak.

90.

Tauht of my maistris by vertuous disciplyne
My look restreyne and keepe clos my sihte,
Of blyssed Benyt to folwe the doctryne,
And ber me lowly to every maneere wiht,
By the advertence of myn inward sihte
Cast to God-ward, of hool affectioun,
To folwe th'emprises of my professioun.

91.

His hooly rewle was unto me rad
And expownyd, in ful notable wise,
By vertuous men religious and sad,
Fful weel expert, discreet, prudent, and wise,
And observauncys of many goostly emprise.
I herd al weel, but touchyng to the deede,
Of that they tauhte I took but litil heede.

672 made] I made Ha; 675 The] Ther LdLHHaC; techyng] thechyng J; al] fHHaL; 676 Lootys] lote J; ofte] often HHaL, full oftyn C; a] fHy C; 677 Tauht] fC; maistris] mastyr C; 678 restreyne] to restreyne Ha, restreynyd C; Keepe] kept C; 680 ber] bare C; 681 the] fHa; th' R; advertence] adventure C; 684 His] The Ha; hooly] hoole J; 685 expownyd] expounde RPn; 686 religious] notable Ha; 687 weel] fC; discreet] fHa; 688 many] many aC; 690 tauhte] aught R, but] fHLHa;

92.

Of religioun I weryd a blak habite,
Oonly outward as by apparence;
To folwe that charge savouryd but ful lite
Sauf by a maneer countirfet pretence;
But, in effect, ther was noon existence,
Lyk the ymage of Pygmalioon
Shewyd liffly and was nat but of stoon.

93.

Upon the laddere with stavys thryes thre,
The nyne degrees of vertuous meeknesse.
Callyd in the rewle grees of humylité,
Wheron t'ascende, my feet me lyst nat dresse
But by a maneer feyned fals humblesse,
So covertly whan folkys wer present,
Oon to shewe outward, anothir in my entent.

94.

First wher as I forsook myn owne wil,
Shett with a lok of obedyence,
T'obeye my sovereyns as it was riht and skil,
To folwe the scoole of parfiht pacience,
To my eynes doon worship and reverence,
Ffolwyng the revers, took al anothir weye;
What I was bodyn I cowde wel disobeye.

---

691 weryd] ware CRPn; 692 by] by goode RPn; 693 that] the R; ful] fJ; ful] a CHaRPn; 696 Lyk] Lyke to JCRPn; 697 Shewyd] That shewyd C; nat] fJCHa, made H; of] a HaCRPn, fL; 699 degrees] grees Ha; 700 the] fC; grees] degrees HaRPn; 701 t'] to JCRPn; feet] foot C; 704 outward] outwaree RPn; 705 as] fJRPnHa; 706 Shett] Set J; 707 T'] To LdCRPn; 708 parfiht] pausyng Ha, parfite L; 709 eynes] emynes RPn; eldres C; evenys Ha; 710 all] fR; 711 What] What that C; bodyn] bydden RPn; cowde] couthe Ha;

95.

With tonge at large and brotil conscience,
Fful of woordys disordynat of language,
Rekles to keepe my lippys in silence,
Mouth, eye, and eerys tooke ther avauntage
To have ther cours unbrydlid, by outrage,
Out of the reynes of attemperaunce
To sensualité gaff al the governaunce.

96.

Wacche out of tyme, ryot, and dronkenesse,
Unfructuous talkyng, [intemperat] diete,
To veyn[e] fablys I did myn eerys dresse.
Ffals detractioun among was to me swete.
To talke of vertu, me thouht it was not mete
To my corage nor my complecciou,
Nor nouht that sownyd toward perfectioun.

97.

Oon with the firste to take my dispoort,
Last that aroos to come to the queer,
In contemplacioun I fond but smal coumfoort.
Hooly historyes did to me no cheer.
I savouryd mor in good wyn that was cleer,
And every hour my passage for to dresse,
As I seide erst, to ryot or excesse.

---

714 Rekles] Recheles RPn; in] to Ha; 715 eye] eyen LdLHHa; eerys] yeris Ha; tooke] token HHa; 717 attemperaunce] temperaunce Ha; 718 the governaunce] theyr plesaunce C; 720 intemperat] imtemperat Hy; 721 eerys] yere Ha; 725 Nor] NeC; nouht] nat HLLdHa, aught C, toward] to C; 726 with] of Ha; with the firste to take] was to take with C; take my] make Ha; 728 but smal] litel Ha; coumfoort] dysport C; 729 Hooly] Nor holy C; historyes] stories CRPnHa, stores J; to] fC; 730 good] fL; 731 for] fRPn; 732 to] in JRPn;

98.

Kowde grucche and fond no cause why.
Causelees ofte compleyned on my fare.
Geyn my correcciouns answeryd frowardly.
Withoute reverence lyst no man to spare.
Of al vertu and pacience I was bare.
Of reklees youthe lyst noon heed to take
What Crist Jesu suffryd for my sake.

99.

Which now remembryng in my latter age,
Tyme of my childhood, as I reherse shal,
Withyne ffifteene holdyng my passage
Mid of a cloistre, depict upon a wal,
I sauh a crucifix, whos woundys were nat smal,
With this woord 'Vide' writen ther besyde:
"Behold my meeknesse, O child, and lef thy pride!"

100.

The which[e] woord whan I did undirstonde,
In my last age takyng the sentence,
Theron remembryng my penne I took in honde,
Gan to write with humble reverence
On this woord 'Vide', of humble dilligence,
In remembraunce of Cristis passioun,
This litil dite, this compilacioun.

---

733 Kowde] I couthe Ha; grucche] groge C; 734 compleyned] compleynyng Ld L H Ha C, compleyn J; on] of C Ha R Pn; 735 correcciouns] corrigiousnesse Ha; 737 al] f J R Pn; was] was all J R Pn; 738 reklees] recheles C R Pn; youthe] thoght Ha; to] f Ha; 739 Crist Jesu] Jesu Crist Ha; 741 as I] f Ha; 743 a(1)] f R; 744 sauh] sawe L; 745 woord] f H, vice C; 746 O] f R Pn; 747 whichë C R] wich Hy etc.; 750 Gan] And gan C; 751 woord] f Ha; Vide] vice C; of] with L H; 752 In] In the C; remembraunce] remembryng Ha R Pn; of] f R Pn; 753 This litil] Th litell R;

V.

Vide!

101.

Behoold, O man, left up thyn eye, and see
What mortal peyne I suffryd for thy trespace;
With pitous voys I crye and sey to the:
Behoold my woundys! behold my bloody face!
Behold the rebukys that do me so manace!
Behold myn enmyes that do me so despise,
And how that I, to refourme the to grace,
Was lik a lamb offryd in sacrifise!

102.

Behold the paynemys of whom [that] I was take!
Behold the cordys with which that I was bounde!
Behold the armwrys which made myn herte quake!
Behold the gardyn in which that I was founde!
Behold how Judas took thrytty penyes rounde!
Behoold his tresoun! behold his covetise!
Behold how I, with many a mortal wounde,
Was lyk a lamb offryd in sacrifise!

103.

See my disciple which that hath me sold,
And see his feyned fals salutacioun,
And see the mony which that he hath told,
And see his kissyng of fals decepcioun!
Behold also the compassyd, fals tresoun,
Take as a theef, with lanternys in there guyse;
And aftirward, for mannys redempcioun,
Was lik a lamb offryd in sacrifise.

---

754 O] thu Ha, fLd Ar; 755 peyne] peynes Sh; suffryd] suffre HLLdSh; 756 I crye and sey] I say and cry Rn; 757 bloody] paile Ar; 759 that] thei J; do] doth Sh, dois Ar; 760 to refourme the] yow to reforme Ar, to reforme the to refourm R; 761 Was] fHa; 762 paynemys] paynes JRPn, Jowis Ar, paynenems Rn; that] fHyJPnShHa; 763 that] fSh; 764 armwrys] harmes Ar, armur Rn, temures Sh; made] gait Ar; quake] to quake LdLHRn; 765 that] fHaArSh; 766 took] for Rn; 767 covetise] couatise J; 768 many a] fH; 770 that fRn; 771 his] this LdLHHa; 772 that] fShRnHa; 773 of] and H; 775 a] fRn;

104.

Behold to Caiphas how I was presentyd!
Behold how Pilat list geve me no respyt!
Behold how bisshopis wer to my deth assentyd!
And see how Herowd had me in despit,
And lik a fool how I was clad in whit,
Drawen as a feloun, in moost cruel wyse;
And last of alle, I, aftir ther delit,
Was lik a lamb offryd in sacrifise!

105.

Behold the mynystrys which had me in keepyng!
Behold the piler and the roopis stronge
Wher I was bounde, my sides doun bleedyng,
Moost felly beete with ther scoorgis longe!
Behold the batail that I did undirfonge,
The bront abydyng of ther mortal emprise;
Thoruh ther accusyng and ther sclaundrys wronge,
Was lik a lamb offryd in sacrifise.

106.

Behold and see the hatful wrecchidnesse
Put ageyn me to my confusioun,
Myn eyen hyd and blyndid with derknesse,
Bete and eek bobbid by fals illusioun,
Salwed in scorn by ther fals knelyng doun,
Behold al this, and see the mortal guyse
How I, oonly, for mannys savacioun,
Was lik a lamb offrid in sacrifise.

---

778 to] and se to Ar; I] he H; 779 list geve] left Ar; list] list to Rn; 780 wer] f Ha; assentyd] assetid Rn; 781 see how] hou that Ar; Herowd] herolde J; in] at Ar; 782 how] f R Pn Rn; was clad] I cladde all Rn; whit] wight H; 783 as] like Ha Rn; 784 And] And atte Ha; of alle I] f Ha; ther] her Rn; 786 which] that Ha; 788 doun] fast Ar; 789 ther] f Ld L H Ha Rn; 791 The bront] The wrong Ar Sh, they brought Rn; 792 and ther] and R Sh; sclaundres] slaundres L; 795 Put] done Ha; 796 Put ageyn me] Agayn me put Ar; hyd and blyndid] blindit and hid Ar; blyndid] blynde R; Bete] beten Sh, Beft Ar; bobbid] buft Ar, bounde J R Pn; 798 Salwed] Salust Ar; fals] f L; 799 the] f Ar; 800 savacioun] redempcioun Ar;

107.

See the witnessis by whom I was deceyved!
Behold the jugis that gaf my jugement!
Behold the cros that was for me devised!
Behold my boody with betyng al to-rent!
Behold the peeple which, of fals entent,
Causelees did [ageyn] me rise,
Which lik a lamb of malys innocent,
Was for mankynde offrid in sacrifise!

108.

Behold the women that folwyd me aferre,
That sore wepte whan I thus was assailed!
Behold the Jewys which, by ther cruel werre,
Han my body unto a cros I-nayled!
Behold my tormentys moost sharply apparailed,
Attween too thevys put to my [Ivyse],
Beholde how moche my deth hath eek avayled,
That was for man offrid in sacrifise!

109.

Behold the spere moost sharply grounde and whet,
Myn herte woundid upon the rihte syde!
Behold the reed speer, galle, and eysel fett!
Behold the scornyngis which that I did abyde,

---

802 See] Behald Ar; witnessis] witnes J H Sh Rn; deceyved] deceydue Pn, dispisit Ar; 803 jugis] Jowes Ar; my] me R Pn Rn; 804 that] f Ha; 806 which] the whiche Sh; of] for Rn; 807 ageyn etc. Ld] ageyns Hy; 809 for mankynde] f Ar; like a lambe Ld L H Ha Rn; in] into Ar; 810 women] wymmen Sh; woman H Ha R Pn; that] tha J; me] f Ha Rn; aferre] afterre R Pn, after J, on far Ar; 811 wepte] me wepit Ar; sore wepte] wepte sore Rn; thus was] was thus Ar; 812 which ..... werre] quhilkes my Innemes wer Ar; by] with Ha; ther] f Sh Rn; 813 Han] haue Pn, Hang Ar; a] the Sh; I nayled] I nayle L, naylede R Pn, fast naylde Ar; 814 tormentys] turment; 815 Attween] betwene Ha Rn Ar; Ivyse Ld L H Ha] f Hy, jewise Sh, Juryse J Rn; to my Ivyse] be thair justice Ar; 816 moche] mychel H, mochel Sh, mehelie Ar, mechel Ld L; deth hath] dedis Ar; hath] f Sh; 817 That] That I H Ha Rn; 818 moost] was Ar; 820 galle] that galle Ha, with galle Rn; fett] J sette Rn; 821 scornyngis] scourginge R Pn; skornyng Rn; that] f Ha Ar Sh Rn;

And my five woundys that were maad so wyde,
Which no man lyst of routhe to advertise!
And thus I was, of meeknesse ageyn pryde,
Ffor mannys offence offrid in sacrifise.

110.

See my disciplis how they ha[ve] me forsake,
And fro me fled almoost everychon!
See how thei sleepte and list nat with me wake!
Of mortal dreed they lefft me al allon,
Except my moodir and my cosyn Seyn John
My deth compleynyng in moost doolful wise.
See! fro my cros they wolde nevir gon,
Ffor mannys offence whan I did sacrifise.

111.

See how that I was jugid to the deth!
See Baraban goon at his liberte!
See with a speere how Longius me sleth!
Behold too licours distyllyng doun fro me!
See blood and watir, by merciful plente,
Rayle by my sides which auhte I-nouhe suffise
To man whan I upon the roode-tre
Was lik a lamb offrid in sacrifise!

---

822 my] fJRPn; that] quhilk Ar; were maad] made wer Ha; 823 Which] that Ar; no] fHaPn; routhe] pyte Ha; to] till Ar; 824 I was] was IHa; ageyn] againes Ar; 826 have LdLHHaRnJRPnAr] han Sh; haHy; 828 and] fR; sleepte] skapte Rn; me] me to Rn; 829 of] ffor Ar; al] fHaRnJSh; 830 cosyn] cousyng Ar; Seyn] seynt LHPn, fRnAr; 831 deth] deid Ar; compleynyng] compleit Ar; in] in the Rn; wise] vyse Rn; 832 See] and Ha; cros] corps Ar; wolde] liste Ar; 833 whan I did] offred in JRPn; did sacrifise] baid assyse Ar; 834 that] fShRPnAr; 835 Baraban] barrabas Ar; barban Rn; 835 goon] gois Ar; at] to Ar; 836 how Longius] Longous H; sleth] slathe R; licours] culloures Ar; 839 I-nouhe] fSh; I nowe LHRn, für Ar liest MacCracken aneugh, unleserlich für mich (auhte I-nouhe] war aueuf? to Ar);

112.

Behold the knyhtis which, by ther froward chaunce,
Sat for my clothys at the dees to pleye!
Behold my moodir swownyng for grevaunce,
Upon the cros whan she sauh me deye!
Behold the sepulcre in which my boonys leye
Kept with strong wacche tyl I did arrise!
Of helle gatys see how I brak the keye,
And gaf for man my blood in sacrifise!

113.

Ageyn thy pryde, behold my gret meeknesse!
Geyn thyn envye, behold my charité!
Geyn thy lecherye, behold my chaast clennesse!
Geyn thy covetise, behold my poverté!
Attween too theevys nayled to a tre,
Railed with reed blood, they list me so disguyse,
Behold, O man, al this I did for the,
Meek as a lamb offrid in sacrifise!

114.

Behold my love, and gife me thyn ageyn!
Behold, I deyed thy raunsoun for to paye!
See how myn herte is open, brood, and pleyn
Thy goostly enmyes oonly to affraye!
[An] hardere batayl no man myht assaye,
Of alle tryumphes the grettest hih emprise,
Wherfor, O man, no lenger the dismaye!
I gaff my blood for the in sacrifise.

842 which by ther] with her Ha; by] throu Ar; ther froward] thrawert Art; 843 at the] atte HaSh; dees] dyce R; 844 swownyng] sownynge JRPn; 846 the] my Rn; sepulcre] sepulture RPn; sepultir Rn; 847 wacche] wachis Ar; did arrise] rais Ar; 849 for] fAr; man] fJAr; blood] boody Rn; 850 Ageyn] And geyn H; thy] thair Ar; gret] fShArRn; 851 Geyn] Ageyn Rn, Agains Ar; thyn] thair Ar; 852 Geyn] Ageyn Rn, Ageyns Ar; thy] thair Ar; chaast] fHa; 853 Geyn] Ageyn RnAr; thy] thair Ar; 854 Attween] betwene HaRnAr; to] upon Ha, till RPnAr, on Rn; 855 list] lefte Rn; me] fHa; disguyse] disgysed Rn; 856 O] fRn; I did] dyde I: Rn; 857 as] lik Ar; 859 raunsoun] raunsom HLPn; deyed] dyd Ha; 860 open] fHaRn, oppenit Ar; 861 to] till Ar; 862 An LdHShPn] AndHy, aRn, OnJ; hardere] hardier J; batayl] batelle R; 863 Of] O Pn; 864 O] fHaRn; the] to H; 865 my blood for the] for the my blood LdLHRn; for my blood Ha;

115.

Turne hoom ageyn; thy synne do forsake!
Behold and see yif ouhte be lefft behynde,
How I to mercy am redy the to take!
Gyff me thyn herte and be no mor unkynde!
Thy love and myn, togidre do hem bynde,
And let hem nevir parte in no wyse!
Whan thu wer lost, thy soule ageyn to fynde,
My blood I offryd for the in sacrifise.

116.

Enprente thes thynges in thyn inward thouht,
And grave hem deepe in thy remembraunce!
Thynk on hem weel and forgete hem nouht!
Al this I suffryd to do the allegaunce.
And with my seyntis to yeve the suffisaunce,
In the hevenly court for the I do devise
A place eternal, [a place] of al plesaunce,
Ffor which my blood I gaff in sacrifise.

117.

And mor my mercy to putten at a preeff
To every synnere that noon ne shal it mys,
Remembre how I gaf mercy to the theeff,
Which had so long trespacyd and doon amys.

---

866 thy] and thi Ha; do] fJ Pn HaRn; 868 I] I the Rn; am] art Ar; the to] I the Rn; the to] to Rn; 869 unkynde] behynde Rn; 870 togidre] togyther RPn; do] fRn; hem] them RPn; thaim Ar; parte] departe HaAr; no] any HaAr; 872 thy soule ageyn] againe thi saule Ar; 873 I offryd for the] for the I offerit Ar; 874 Enprente] Enprinte RPn, Enpryte Rn, 875 hem] them HaRnJKPn, fAr; deepe] deeply Ar; 876 hem(1)] them JRPnRn; hem(2)] them JRPnRn, me Ar; weel] fHaRnH; 877 suffryd] offerit Ar; the] thyn Ha; the allegaunce] thy diligence Ar; 878 the] me Ar; 879 do] dide Sh; the hevenly court for the I do] hevin a croun I do for the Ar; 880 a place] fHy; al] fHa; 882 putten] puttyn Ld, putte Ha. put HaRnShRPnAr; at] to HaRnAr; a] fAr; 883 To] Till Ar; ne] fRnAr; mys] amys Ar; 884 mercy] my mercy JRPn; the] ane Ar; 885 Which] The quhilk Ar; had so lang] so lang had Ar; doon] fJ; amys] mys R; so long] long tyme Rn;

Went he nat freely with me to paradys?
[Have] this in mynde how it is my guyse
Alle repentaunt to bryng hem to my blys,
Ffor whom my blood I gaf in sacrifise.

118.

Tarye no lenger; toward thyn heritage
Hast on thy weye and be of riht good cheer!
Go ech day onward on thy pilgrymage!
Thynk how short tyme thu shalt abyde heer!
Thy place is biggyd above the sterrys cleer;
Noon erthely paleys wrouht in so statly wyse.
Com on my freend, my brothir moost enteer!
For the I offryd my blood in sacrifise.

Explicit testamentum.

886 nat] nocht Ar; 887 Have] Ha: HyJ; 888 Alle] That Ar; repentaunt] repenttis Ar; repentauntes Rn; hem] them Rn thaim Ar, fJRPn; 889 I] fAr; 890 toward] fro Ar; thyn] thyn owne Sh; 891 on] in Ar; thy] the Ar; of riht good] richt gude off Ar; 892 ech] every Ha; on] to Ar; 893 tyme] a quhile Ar; thu shalt] yow sall Ar; shalt] hast H; 894 biggyd] byldyd RPn, bilt Sh, beld Ar, 895 paleys] place RnAr; statly] a Ar, staly Rn; freend, my brothir] brother my friende Ar.

Glossar.

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Curriculum vitae.

Hans Beutner wurde am 27. April 1883 zu Weingarts in Oberfranken geboren. Er besuchte die Volksschule seines Geburtsortes und von 1895—1904 das K. Neue Gymnasium in Bamberg. Von 1904—1909 oblag er seinen neuphilologischen Studien an der K. Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München und hörte besonders die Kollegien der Herren Professoren Dr. Schick und Dr. Breymann. In diese Zeit (1906—1907) fällt sein achtmonatlicher Aufenthalt als «assistant allemand» am lycée de Vendôme (Loir-Et-Cher). In den Jahren 1907 und 1908 bestand er den ersten Abschnitt, Oktober 1909 den zweiten Abschnitt der Prüfung für den Unterricht in den neueren Sprachen. Von 1909—1911 war er Realschullehrer an der berechtigten Privatrealschule von Dr. Barth in Leipzig. Die Sommerferien 1910 verbrachte er in den Bibliotheken von London, Oxford und Cambridge. Von 1911—1912 besuchte er das pädagogisch-didaktische Seminar am Real- und Reformgymnasium Nürnberg unter Leitung von Herrn Oberstudienrat Rektor Dr. Zwerger und Herrn Konrektor Dr. Ackermann. 1912—1913 war er als wissenschaftlicher Lehrer an den beiden Landerziehungsheimen Haubinda in Thüringen (Mittelstufe) und Schloß Bieberstein in der Rhön (Oberstufe) tätig, die beide unter Führung ihres Gründers Herrn Dr. Hermann Lietz stehen. Vom 15. September 1913 ab wurde er durch Entschließung des K. Bayerischen Staatsministeriums der K. Luitpoldkreisoberrealschule in München als Assistent beigegeben.